Consistently with the headlines, the writer emphasizes Alice's vulnerable haplessness, her being not only a girl but unfortunate. Perhaps inadvertently the writer makes an ironic connection between Alice's "treatment" by McIlroy and the treatment she should have had from the hospital staff. His reference to her having been "confined" is similarly negative. The lines could easily precede a depiction of a more systematic abuse, rather than the rather luridly painted episode that follows. Indeed, their effect is to connect the episode to the Asylum as possibly more than an aberration and to situate it, perhaps somewhat exploitatively, in what might aptly be called contemporary asylum culture.

The reporter offers some new information about Alice, in particular that she had already been known to the police before the McIlroy business. Some five years ago communication had been sent to a newspaper, that she was being abused by her parents; Inspector Newhall had gone with a reporter to her parents' home on Alice Street, where Alice had been found in an upstairs bedroom, physically sound but mentally "quite insane." Her father had explained that "her brain had been affected for several months." A few weeks later Alice had been committed to the Asylum. She had subsequently been released as cured, but three years ago had had to be readmitted on a relapse.

Owen McIlroy had been employed as a keeper in one of the wards, and subsequently discharged as not "very favourably thought of." However, because of his connection with his sister, a cook in the Asylum, he had frequently visited the place and, according to the reporter "had many opportunities of speaking to the inmates." He implies that Alice Bedson was among them.

The writer describes the rather sordid transaction between Alice's physician, Dr. Hagel, and a reporter who had gone to his office at 387 Queen Street West. While her doctor had initially declined to give any information as "he had no right to discuss the affair, as his connection with the case was purely that of a professional man," he admitted to having in his possession a copy of Alice's confession. He had again declined to show it, but indicated that "a $10 bill might influence him." This confession is the same one that Clark had copied into his Asylum Diary. It is accompanied by Dr. Hagel's explanation, and his reiteration of Alice's explanation that she had not complained earlier because she had felt too ashamed.